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[NCEA 30 Day Outlook 6-28-2017.docx](#)

## **National Center for Environmental Assessment Weekly Report for June 28, 2017**

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Notables listed below, *30 Day Outlook for Presentations and External Meetings* attached.

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### **PUBLIC ACTIVITIES/EVENTS**

**Region 8 meeting of state oil and gas/environmental agency directors.** On June 28, Caroline Ridley (NCEA) will present a briefing on EPA's final report, "Hydraulic fracturing for oil and gas: Impacts from the hydraulic fracturing water cycle on drinking water resources in the United States" to a meeting of state officials convened by EPA's Region 8 office. The final report was released in December 2016.

**International Nitrogen Management System.** On June 29, Christopher Clark will participate remotely at the semi-annual meeting on the International Nitrogen Management System (INMS). The INMS is an international collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) to support coordination of activities, methods, and databases to monitor nitrogen in the environment.

**DoD Workshop:** On June 29, Chris Weaver (NCEA EARCG) will be participating in an invitation-only workshop, "Non-Stationary Weather Patterns and Extreme Events: Informing Design/Planning Applications for Long-Lived Assets," convened by the Department of Defense (DoD) Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP) and the Environmental Security Technology Certification Program (ESTCP). The workshop will focus on reviewing the state of practice within DoD and the Services, identifying current requirements, areas of progress, remaining research and application needs, and relevant work in civilian sectors/organizations that could inform future SERDP/ESTCP activities. Relevance to research and assessments will also be considered.

**Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives.** Allen Davis has been invited to serve on a Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) scientific advisory panel in order to update guidance on dose-response assessment and the application of benchmark dose approaches for human health risk assessment of chemicals in food. This project aims to update the guidance on dose-response modeling and to contribute to international harmonization in chemical risk assessment methodology. This panel will convene its first meeting on June 26, 2017 and will continue meeting throughout 2017 and early 2018. A physical meeting will take place in early 2018.

### **WITHIN EPA**

**IRIS pilot program.** The pilot program to apply more focused and rapid approaches to IRIS assessments that was initiated in February of this year has reached a milestone of sharing assessment plans with program and regional patrons. The assessment plans for ammonia, chloroform, manganese and uranium assessments were sent to patrons in advance of draft assessments being shared mid-summer.

**Lead in water.** On June 27-28, 2017, EPA's Office of Water (OW) is hosting an external peer review of three modeling approaches that OW is considering to inform a health-based benchmark for lead in water. One of the approaches, a probabilistic modeling approach, was developed by a team of ORD NCEA-NERL scientists who will present their work at the peer review meeting.

**OPPT Training.** On June 28, Kris Thayer will lead a training session with OPPT/RAD on systematic review. The training materials will build on intra-agency discussions of the IRIS Handbook.

**ORD Technical Support Metric.** Program support coordinators reached agreement on necessary changes to the TechTracker program and technical support site that has been piloted in NHEERL and NCEA this year. An ORD-wide roll out is expected in late July.

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### **Other Recent Activities:**

**Neurotoxicity of Methylmercury.** The NCEA Neurotoxicology Workgroup organized a symposium on "Current Perspectives on Cognitive Effects Following Developmental Methylmercury Exposure" at the meeting of the Developmental Neurotoxicology Society (DNSTS), June 24-28 in Denver, CO. In addition, the Neurotoxicology Workgroup has

collaborated on a poster on “A Systematic Evaluation of Mechanistic Data for Developmental Neurotoxicology Outcomes.”

**Perchlorate Health Impact Evaluation.** On June 23, the final data output for perchlorate impact on free thyroxine from the 1<sup>st</sup> trimester biologically based dose response model was submitted to OW-GWDW. This is part of the deliverables to OW for this critical model that informs the approach for the maximum contaminant load goal for which a peer review is required under court order deadline of October of 2017. This work was a rapid adaptation of a 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester model following input from a February peer review report. A committed group of NCEA scientists led by Paul Schlosser, with significant and rapid peer review in June by a broad group of ORD scientists, have delivered this cutting-edge scientific model under tremendous time pressure.

**Cumulative Impact Assessment.** On June 23, 2017, NCEA’s Mike McManus and Brent Johnson held a Skype meeting with scientists from Regions 3 and 4 and other ORD labs to discuss the project to evaluate cumulative impacts of fossil fuel and mineral extraction activities on aquatic life from changes in land use, water quantity and quality, and habitat availability. Brent presented the update: “Spatial Convergence in Major Dissolved Ion Concentrations and Implications of Headwater Disturbance for Downstream Water Quality”. Mike presented on some of the current results on “Spatial Predictions of Stream Conductivity”. This project uses data collected by Region 4 scientists.

**Literature Extraction.** On June 22, Kris Thayer, Ryan Jones, and Shane Thacker met with James Thomas’s research group from University College London to discuss free sharing of code for tools to facilitate conducting systematic review. James will share code for a program that digitizes information from figures. The program would be accessible from within HAWC. In exchange, IRIS staff will beta test the program during routine data extraction.

**TSCA and Systematic Review.** The EPA systematic review community of practice (CoP) continues to gather momentum to disseminate Agency wide expertise on systematic review and support and train those programs and regions with systematic review needs. NCEA and the CoP are supporting OPPT as they navigate the first Risk Evaluations for which scoping documents were released to the public on June 22. NCEA staff supported the development of these documents and are helping to guide and review OPPT approaches as they implement systematic reviews of these ten chemicals.

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